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NBPN.

Prime Minister

22 January 1986

TEACHERS' PAY AND DUTIES

I should like to add a little to what Keith Joseph has said in his latest minute.

I strongly endorse the points you made this morning. We do not want to pay out extra money for no return. We must win back the moderate teachers who form such a large part of the teaching force. And we must set in position a better way of determining teachers' pay and conditions for the future. I believe you are right in supposing that a standing review body might be more receptive to our ideas and might be able to overcome the paralysis which has made the present negotiating machinery so ineffective; but I support Keith's view that the best way to approach this is through a wide ranging inquiry which can secure widespread public support for radical change.

I endorse the general analysis in Keith's minute. But I must point out that the first option he lists in paragraph 1 looks very different in Scotland. We do not even have the dubious advantage of an ACAS conciliation exercise to fall back on; all we face is continuing stalemate with both sides looking to the Government for a solution and little sign of real movement from the teachers' unions on which negotiations could be based. Moreover our difficulties over the national school examinations will soon lead us to a crisis of public confidence.

E.R.

There are however a couple of points I should like to make on the terms of reference Keith has suggested for the proposed inquiry. First, if we want the inquiry to consider the "standing review body" option seriously we should make this clear from the start by adding the following at the end of "a" in paragraph 13:

"including the possibility of establishing a standing review body"

Second we should make it clear beyond doubt that the inquiry is not meant to consider whether central government should take over responsibility for running or financing the education service; this could perhaps be done by inserting a suitable passage into the announcement rather than by altering the terms of reference themselves.

Finally I agree with Keith that we should try to reach a decision and announce it tomorrow. We have nothing to gain by further delay.

I am copying this to other members of MISC 122 and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

M.R.

M.R.



22.1.9
1986
11:30 AM